CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting potentially harmful actions on a handheld computer, the method comprising:

monitoring calls to applications resident on the handheld computer;

identifying a code associated with a program initiating said call; and

at least temporarily preventing an action requested by said call from being executed if the identified code does not correspond to a code associated with data said action is to be performed upon.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein monitoring calls to applications comprises installing a patch on the handheld computer, the patch being operable to intercept calls.

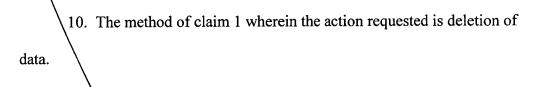3. The method of claim 2 wherein installing a patch comprises replacing an API address with a patch address.

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4. The method of claim 2 wherein installing a patch comprises utilizing get trap and set trap commands.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying a code comprises identifying a creator code on a Palm operating system.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying at least one of the applications as a trusted application, wherein trusted applications are not prevented from performing actions.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving data on an infrared port of the handheld computer and installing said data in a temporary database.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising asking a user whether to accept said data before loading said data onto the handheld computer.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the action requested is a password manipulation.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the action requested is deletion of data.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the action requested is modification of data.

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12. The method of claim 1 wherein the action requested is manipulation of an operating system.

13. A method for detecting potentially harmful actions on a handheld computer, the method comprising:

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monitoring requests for action by applications on the handheld computer;

evaluating said requests to determine if said requests may result in potentially harmful behavior to data stored on the handheld computer;

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preventing said action from being performed if said request is identified as potentially harmful behavior; and

notifying a user of the handheld computer of said potentially harmful behavior.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein monitoring requests for action comprises monitoring API calls.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein evaluating said requests comprises comparing a creator code associated with the application requesting said action with a creator code associated with data the action is to be performed upon.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising identifying at least one application as a trusted application and allowing said action to be performed even if said request is identified as potentially harmful if requested by the trusted application.

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17. A computer program product for detecting possibly harmful actions on a handheld computer before the actions are executed, the product comprising:

computer code that monitors calls to applications resident on the handheld computer;

computer code that identifies a code associated with a program initiating said call;

computer code that at least temporarily prevents an action requested by said call from being performed if the identified code does not correspond to a code associated with data said action is to be performed upon; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes.

18. The computer product of claim 17 further comprising code that identifies at least one of the applications as a trusted application and wherein trusted applications are not prevented from performing actions.

19. The computer product of claim 17 wherein the computer code that monitors calls to applications is a patch configured for use in a Palm operating system.

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20. A computer program product for detecting possibly harmful actions on a handheld computer before the actions are executed, the product comprising:

computer code that monitors requests for action by applications on the handheld computer;

computer code that evaluates said requests to determine if said requests may result in potentially harmful behavior to data stored on the handheld computer;

computer code that prevents said action from being performed if said request is identified as potentially harmful behavior;

computer code that notifies a user of the handheld computer of said potentially harmful behavior; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes.

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